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OLD SERIES]

Nec aranearum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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AN ADDRESS.

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BY

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON.

[Reported by G. BLATCH, Esq., Barrister
at Law.]

I will now just draw your attention to the value of the evidence in this respect. One man gives me an opinion on one side; another gives his opinion on the other side; and a third tells me he has made a good profit on paid labor, and shews me the money he has gained by it. Now, I will ask you, which of those three men would you believe, and place the greatest reliance on? Whether you would rather believe the man who shewed you the money he had made by employed and paid labor; or the man who shewed you his empty pockets, and told you paid labor was the cause of it? I think we cannot help arriving at the conclusion, that what one man does another can do. If A. can cultivate his farm to a good profit, by employed paid labor, and carefully looking after his own interests, surely B. can do the same to as good effect. Therefore I think that those men who speak affirmatively on this question, and who shew me the sovereigns made by pursuing this system, are the men to be believed and relied on; and their evidence is better than any mere theoretical opinion. Then as to the question, how far the winter interferes with the raising of stock and rendering them profitable: I speak now of oxen, cows, and such cattle: it has been by some supposed unprofitable to raise stock in the winter in this Province. I have gone the same way to work in treating this question; I have obtained the same kind of evidence, and have come to the same kind of conclusion, on the same principles of evidence. If a man tells me he has made money by the pursuit, and shews me the sovereigns so gained, I cannot resist that evidence; what he has done, others may do, if they pursue the same prudent system; and therefore the conclusion I arrive at, on the whole subject is, that it is profitable to carry on farming in this Province, and to raise and maintain stock in the winter. I have thus disposed of the two objections, relative to the climate and to paid labor; but there are other things that interfere with farming in this country.—One is, the pursuit of the lumbering business; and no doubt that is a circumstance which has hitherto most materially interfered with the prosecution of agricultural industry in this Province. It is necessary therefore to consider how far it is likely to interfere with the future condition of the Province in relation to its agricultural prosperity; but it is only fair to acknowledge, that although evils have sprung from lumbering pursuits, yet that the Province owes a great deal of its prosperity to its lumbering operations. That pursuit was the natural trade of the country, before agricultural could possibly have been commenced at all, and it will continue to be so for a long time to come. There is a great difference between urging a thing too far, and conducting it in a skillful and prudent way. From the returns and papers I have received on this point, I have been compelled to come to the conclusion, that lumbering does not necessarily interfere with farming: but rather if judiciously followed, each class of persons attending exclusively to their own peculiar business, that lumbering operations will promote the interests of the farmer in various ways.

Then, again as to the profits of farmers and markets for their produce; I have made a comparison for the returns furnished to me, and have deduced the averages of the different prices obtained and profits gained. Now, if these profits and prices were obtained, there must

have been some place where these articles were sold, and therefore there must be markets for the produce of the country; and these markets will not only continue but will gradually increase. No doubt, the markets might in some respects be improved; and on this head, I have thrown out some suggestions in my Report, which may hereafter prove beneficial. I have also, in that Report, touched on the subject of Emigration, its causes and effects; and on the effects of blights or diseases on the agricultural products of the Province. The consideration of all these questions leads me to the general conclusion, that so far as I have been able to examine the condition of the Province personally, as well as from the study of the various points put to me by practical men belonging to the country, I conceive that there is nothing in the circumstances of this Province so different from those of other countries to which I have alluded, (and particularly as regards Canada and the Eastern States of the Union) which ought to diminish the profits of the farmer in comparison with those countries. In my Report, I have discussed the actual state of the tillage and agriculture of the Province, and have followed up this discussion with a series of recommendations for their improvement; which are partly such as can be carried out only by means of Legislative enactment and assistance, partly within the scope and capability of Agricultural Societies, and partly can be effected by the exertions of individual farmers. These topics are too extensive for me to discuss this evening; and indeed it would be improper for me to do so, because they will come before the Legislature for consideration, and any notice of them now would be premature. I here briefly take my leave of you, by not giving any opinion of my own, further than I have given it as founded on the information afforded me. I mention this merely as a safeguard; that although the information contained in my Report may be imperfect information, and the results deduced may be merely imperfect results, yet they are such as have been obtained from the data furnished to me by the men and the documents I have met with in the Province. Probably, they are results which I might have reason to correct were I to reside longer in the Province; but at present they are such as I have been compelled to arrive at, from the materials and means of information possessed by me, or to which I have had access. How far they may prove useful, in making the farmers more contented, and the people more satisfied with the Province as to its agricultural capabilities, I leave you to judge after perusing the Report at length; you are quite capable of judging on this question, and I am quite sure your judgement will be sound and impartial.

DEFECTIVE STABLES.

One of the greatest defects still existing throughout the country in the farmer's stables, is the want of tight floors, and a channel in them for the purpose of carrying off the urine of stock into tanks for its preservation, to be applied at a future day to the grass and clover crops. We advise all who have not their stables thus formed, to remedy the defect as soon as possible; and those who cannot immediately do this, should litter their stock well. The litter will absorb and preserve nearly all the urine, especially if it be whitened every day with sprinkling of plaster of Paris. If plaster cannot be had, charcoal dust is next best, then peat, tan bark, or indeed most any dry absorbing vegetable substance.

The average stale of a cow is from 900 to 1,200 gallons a year, according to size; that of a horse 1,100 to 1,400.—Pound for pound, this liquid is much more valuable than solid manure.

The Chinese and Flemings save and apply all animal liquids with the utmost care. They would as soon let their silver coins be lost as this precious fluid; and they are the best farmers in the world. The Germans, French and English are now rapidly following in their

footsteps. Millions of dollars worth of manure are annually thrown away, or suffered to waste throughout the United States. When shall we become as economical in saving, and as enlightened in applying these enriching substances as our transatlantic brethren?

WINTER.

BY E. H. BUBBINGTON.

The swallow scents the winter's breath,
When winter is far behind,
And he knows that the scent is the scent
Of death,

Which rides on the whistling wind.
What's to be done?
The swallow hath two homes or more;
And he spreads his black wings to the
golden sun,
And swift in the course as the hurricane
run.

He speeds through the skies to a
warmer shore;
The swallow hath two homes or more,
But the poor man hath not one.

The poor man scents the winter's death
Ere the autumn flowers have had their
birth,
And he weeps to think of the cheerless
hearth,

And innocent children clad in rags—
Pale poverty hath its signs and flags,
As heroes have whom glory tracks;
And they flutter and hang on human
backs!

What's to be done,
When the frost shall creep through
the hovel door?
The swallow hath two homes or more;
But the poor man hath not one:

Call it shelter if you like,
But call it never a home I pray.
Where storms through broken windows
strike,

And turn men's bodies cold as clay.
Call that not a home which hath merely
a roof.

No bread on the shelf, and no fire in
the grate,
Lest grinding poverty's iron hoof,
As if to mark ye with reproof,
Should trample ye down as low as
late.

The swallow hath a home in the sun
But the poor man hath not one.

Do ye scent the winter, rich men, yet,
Ye swallows with many homes?
Without dread ye may meet it, but never
forget

That to many a blight it comes.
The swallow hath rushed across the sea;
But the poor man where is he?

Ye, rich ones, know
That he hath no home where his feet
may go,
And remember this through frost and
snow;

Though he hath not a home beneath
the sun,
Your charities can make him one.

From the Paris Horticultural Review.
EFFECT OF CHARCOAL ON
FLOWERS.

About a year ago I made a bargain for a rose-bush of magnificent growth and full of buds. I waited for them to blow, and expected roses worthy of such a noble plant, and of the praises bestowed upon it by the vender. At length, when it bloomed, all my hopes were blasted. The flowers were of a faded color, and I discovered that I had only a middling muliflora, stale colored enough. I therefore resolved to sacrifice it to some experiments which I had in view. My attention had been captivated with the effects of charcoal, as stated in some English publications. I then covered the earth in the pot, in which my rose-bush was about half an inch deep with pulverised charcoal! Some days after I was astonished to see the roses, which bloomed, of as fine a lively rose color as I could wish! I determined to repeat the experiment; and therefore, when the rose bush had done flowering, I took off the charcoal, and put fresh earth about the roots.—You may conceive that I waited for the

next spring impatiently to see the result of this experiment. When it bloomed, the roses were, as at first, pale and discolored; but by applying the charcoal as before, the roses soon resumed their rosy red color. I tried the powdered charcoal likewise in large quantities upon my petunias, and found that both the white and the violet flowers were equally sensible to its action. It always gave great vigor to the red or violet colours of the flowers, and the white petunias became veined with red or violet tints; the violets became covered with irregular spots of a bluish or almost black tint. Many persons who admired them thought they were new varieties from the seed. Yellow flowers are, as I have proved, insensible to the influence of the charcoal.

From the Albany Cultivator.

IMPROVEMENT OF VARIETIES.

A writer in the Gardener's Chronicle gives some interesting results of experiments in improving the varieties of vegetables. He began with long pod beans. He took for seed none with fewer than five seeds in a pod. The following year there were many six-seeded pods, and some with seven. Still selecting the best, he procured many six and seven-seeded pods, and some with eight. In this way new and distinct varieties were formed; for while some remained with five-seeded pods, it was found that they rarely had a six-seeded pod upon them; while those with six-seeded pods were nearly all so, and some seven-seeded.—New varieties are only produced from seed; hence the importance of a constant care in selection in all crops which are annually reproduced in this way. A skilful market gardener, in Western New York, by constantly selecting the earliest seeds of the Washington pea, in a few years had them more than a week earlier than his neighbors, who cultivated the same variety. Plants not reproduced by seeds, as the potato by eyes or tubers, and fruit trees by grafts and buds, remain perfectly unchanged for ages; for this is only a continuation of the same original plant, which cannot change its own being.

From the Genesee Farmer.

GARDENING FOR LADIES.

Mr Downing, in the February number of the Horticulturist, when urging the ladies to decorate their houses with climbers and creepers—the drapery of nature, more beautiful far than festoons of satin and gold—says: "All that is most graceful and charming in this way owes its existence to female hands. *** They are naturally mistresses of embellishment. Men are so stupid in the main about these matters, that if the majority of them had their own way their world neither be a ringlet nor a ruffie, a wreath or a nose-gay left in the world."

Without entirely assenting to the truth of the above, we would say that the ladies have ever been considered, the world over, the almost exclusive patrons of flowers. And we know of no employment—no exercise or recreation—so conducive to health and happiness—none that will bring so effectually the glow of health to the cheek, and of joy to the heart, as GARDENING. It not only furnishes exercise, but exercise in the open air, and that regularly. While riding and other modes of exercise are attended with expense, and inconvenience, and loss of time, and are seldom attended to so regularly, even by those most favored: yet she who cultivates a flower garden, and loves flowers, will seldom neglect her daily task. The ever encroaching weeds, the necessities of her plants, call daily for her attentions—and seldom calls in vain.

The healthy appearance of English ladies is noticed by all American travellers. And for this they are in a great measure indebted to their passion for gardening. All English ladies work in their flower gardens, from the proudest princess to the poorest cottager.

When the hoe and the spade were almost the only garden implements in use,